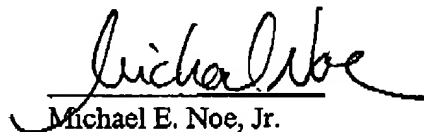


REMARKS

This Amendment After Final Office Action is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Independent claims 8 and 13 were rewritten with the language of canceled claims 9 and 14, respectively. In addition, claims 10 and 15 were canceled. It is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No extension of time is believed to be required. However, in the event that an extension of time is required, please charge that extension fee and any other required fees to **Hitachi Global Storage Technologies Deposit Account No. 50-2587.**

Respectfully submitted,



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REDACTED VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 9, 10, 14, and 15.

Amend claims 8 and 13 as set forth below:

- 1 1. (Unchanged) A slider for a disk drive, comprising:
2 a supporting structure having a top surface including a pocket and a plurality of protrusions
3 protruding from the pocket, each of the protrusions having a protruding end that defines an air
4 bearing surface; and
5 a coating on the entire top surface of the supporting structure other than the air bearing surfaces
6 of the protrusions, such that the air bearing surfaces are completely free of the coating; and wherein
7 the coating is formed from a material that is softer than the supporting structure.
- 1 2. (Unchanged) The slider of claim 1 wherein the coating is located on and completely encases
2 the entire pocket of the top surface of the supporting structure.
- 1 3. (Unchanged) The slider of claim 1 wherein the top surface of the supporting structure has a
2 leading edge, lateral edges, a trailing edge, and a plurality of corners located at intersections of the
3 leading edge, the lateral edges, and the trailing edge, and the coating is located on each of the corners
4 of the top surface of the supporting structure.
- 1 4. (Unchanged) The slider of claim 1 wherein the top surface of the supporting structure has a
2 leading edge, a trailing edge, and lateral edges extending therebetween, and the coating is located
3 along and completely coats an entire length of the lateral edges of the top surface of the supporting
4 structure.
- 1 7. (Unchanged) The slider of claim 1 wherein the material of the coating is selected from the
2 group consisting of metals, carbon, doped carbon, and polymers.

1 8. (Amended) A slider for supporting a transducer for use in a disk drive, comprising:
2 a supporting structure having a top surface including a pocket, a leading edge, a trailing edge,
3 lateral edges extending between the leading and trailing edges, corners located at intersections
4 between the leading edge, the lateral edges, and the trailing edge;
5 a plurality of air bearing protrusions protruding from the pocket;
6 at least one ^{two} shock-absorbing protrusion protruding from the pocket and having a height with
7 respect to the pocket that differs from a height of the plurality of air bearing protrusions, such that
8 the at least one shock-absorbing protrusion is discontinuous with the plurality of air bearing
9 protrusions; [and] wherein
10 each of the air bearing protrusions and the at least one shock-absorbing protrusion has a
11 protruding end that defines an air bearing surface, and the at least one shock-absorbing protrusion
12 comprises a material that is softer than the supporting structure[.]; and wherein
13 the at least one shock-absorbing protrusion comprises a plurality of shock-absorbing protrusions,
14 each of which is located at a respective one of the corners of the top surface of the supporting
15 structure.

1 9. (Canceled) The slider of claim 8 wherein the at least one shock-absorbing protrusion comprises
2 a plurality of shock-absorbing protrusions, each of which is located at a respective one of the corners
3 of the top surface of the supporting structure.

1 10. (Canceled) The slider of claim 8 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion comprises a plurality
2 of shock-absorbing protrusions, each of which is located along an entire length of a respective one
3 of the lateral edges of the top surface of the supporting structure.

1 12. (Unchanged) The slider of claim 8 wherein the shock-absorbing protrusion comprises a material
2 selected from the group consisting of metals, carbon, doped carbon, and polymers.

1 13. (Amended) A magnetic recording device for reading or writing magnetically, comprising in
2 combination:

3 a disk comprising a substrate and a metallic magnetic layer;

4 a head support on a slider for magnetically reading data to or writing data from the magnetic
5 layer on the disk, the slider comprising a supporting structure having a top surface with a pocket, the
6 top surface of the supporting structure having a leading edge, a trailing edge, lateral edges extending
7 between the leading and trailing edges, and a plurality of corners located at intersections of the
8 leading edge, the lateral edges, and the trailing edge;

9 a plurality of air bearing protrusions protruding from the pocket, each of the air bearing
10 protrusions having a protruding end that defines an air bearing surface, wherein at least some of the
11 air bearing protrusions are shock-absorbing protrusions, each having a height relative to the pocket
12 that differs from a height of other ones of the air bearing protrusions, such that the shock-absorbing
13 protrusions are discontinuous with said other ones of the air bearing protrusions, and at least the air
14 bearing surfaces of the shock-absorbing protrusions comprise a material that is softer than the
15 supporting structure;

16 a motor operable to rotate the disk; [and]

17 an actuator connected to the slider for moving a head across the disk[.]; and wherein

18 each of the shock-absorbing protrusions is located at a respective one of the corners of the top
19 surface of the supporting structure.

1 14. (Canceled) The device of claim 13 wherein each of the shock-absorbing protrusions is located
2 at a respective one of the corners of the top surface of the supporting structure.

1 15. (Canceled) The device of claim 13 wherein each of the shock-absorbing protrusions is located
2 and extends along an entire length of a respective one of the lateral edges of the top surface of the
3 supporting structure.